

DOE – Medical and Infectious Disease Update – Wednesday, February 11, 2004

DOE weekly updates on Bird Flu, Human Influenza, West Nile Virus, or other illnesses and medical issues will continue as appropriate or as requested. The following information is current as of Thursday, February 11, 2004, 1300 hours, EST. Information presented is routinely taken from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), <http://www.cdc.gov/>, The World Health Organization (WHO), <http://www.who.int/en/>, the Department of Defense Global Emerging Infections Surveillance and Response System site, (DoD-GEIS)-<http://www.geis.ha.osd.mil/>, and other creditable sources.

Recent News

Genetic analysis probes bird flu's history - 11Feb2004, Debora MacKenzie, *NewScientist.com* --Scientists analyzing the genetic sequence of the H5N1 flu virus that killed a person in Vietnam say it is highly similar to sequences isolated recently from ducks and geese in China. They are careful to warn that this does not necessarily prove that the avian influenza epidemic currently raging across East Asia started in China. But the new analyses do show that this kind of H5N1 virus has been circulating widely in the region over the past several years ...

<http://www.newscientist.com/news/news.jsp?id=ns99994670>.

Bird flu outbreak again in Delaware: Discovery of 2nd flock startles experts, worries region's poultry industry, 11Feb2004, MEREDITH COHN, JAMIE SMITH HOPKINS, CHRIS GUY, *Baltimore Sun* --A second flock of chickens infected with avian influenza was discovered Tuesday in Delaware, surprising experts and greatly expanding the economic dangers from the outbreaks ... The United States has had many avian flu outbreaks over the past several years, but none has ever killed a human, unlike the strain in Asia (H5N1) that has recently caused illness and death among people there ... It took four months and the killing of nearly 5 million poultry to stop the spread of avian flu in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley two years ago, a direct loss of about \$150 million - and untold losses to farmers stuck in quarantine, unable to raise more birds ...

http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/health/bal-te.birdflu11feb11_0,193242.story?coll=bal-home-headlines.

Gene therapy jab burns off fat - 10Feb2004, Shaoni Bhattacharya, *NewScientist.com* --Giving fat rats a gene therapy jab helps them to lose weight by turning their fat-storing cells into fat-burning cells, according to a new study. A team of US and Swiss scientists used a virus to deliver the gene for the fat-busting hormone leptin to the fat-storing cells of rats predisposed to diabetes. Within two weeks the rats shed over a quarter of their weight and their appetite decreased by a third. The leptin appeared to convert cells which normally stockpile fat into lean, fatless cells ...

<http://www.newscientist.com/news/news.jsp?id=ns99994660>.

WHO 'BIRD' Flu Travel Advice - WHO does not at present recommend any restrictions on travel to any country currently experiencing outbreaks of H5N1 avian infection in poultry flocks, including countries which have also reported cases in humans. Travelers to countries in Asia with documented H5N1 outbreaks should avoid poultry farms, contact with animals in live food markets, and any surfaces that appear to be contaminated with feces or fluids from poultry or other animals. Influenza viruses are destroyed by heat, and as a precaution, consumers should ensure that all foods from poultry, including eggs, have been thoroughly cooked ... http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004_01_26/en/.

WHO: Avian influenza-fact sheet – 5January2004-Avian influenza ("bird flu") and the significance of its transmission to humans - [This excellent article also explains the concepts of antigenic "drift", and antigenic "shift", Ed.] ... http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004_01_15/en/.

CDC Influenza Summary Update - Influenza activity remained low during the week of January 25-31, 2004. The percentage of patient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) remained below the national baseline of 2.5% for the third consecutive week. Mortality due to pneumonia and influenza (9.3%) continued to decline, but remained above the epidemic threshold during week 4 (8.2%). There

**Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported
by State & Territorial Epidemiologists**
Week ending January 31, 2004 - Week 4

Legend:

- No Report
- No Activity
- Sporadic
- Local Activity
- Regional
- Widespread

CDC West Nile Virus Home - <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>

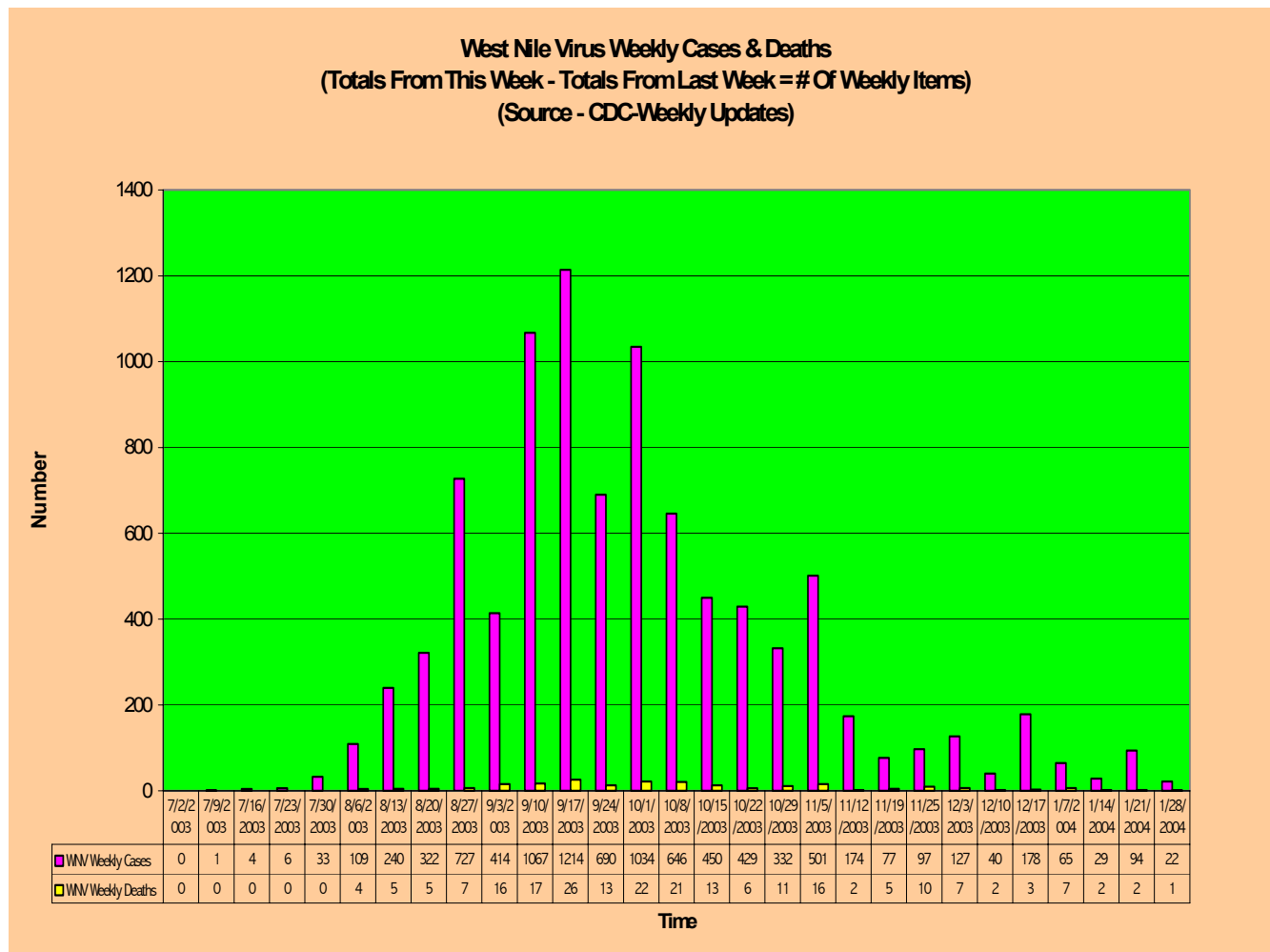
Click on a state to link directly to their West Nile virus Web page.
See list below for additional city-level and main State Health Department Web sites.



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Health Department, provides real-time information for those states which update regularly, such as PA and CO.
http://www.mosquitoczar.com/west_nile_virus.

CDC West Nile Virus Case Count - [Maps](#) reporting WNV activity and [human disease cases](#) reported to CDC were updated on January 28, 2004. The information for the week ending January 28, 2004 is shown in the chart below. Total cases and deaths from 46 states stand at 9122 and 223, respectively.
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/surv&controlCaseCount03.htm>



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